

F-702

Request letter

May 15, 2001

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Chairman
Subcommittee on District of Columbia
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We would greatly appreciate your consideration of the following initiatives, relating to the work of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, which are of much interest to us.

- **Kenilworth Regional Sports Complex** - For a number of years there has been growing interest in developing Kenilworth Park to offer a state of the art sports facility and for the residents of D.C., especially the youth, and the entire region. The U.S. Soccer Foundation and the D.C. Sports Commission, with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and community groups are spearheading an effort to upgrade, renovate, and expand Kenilworth Park's soccer facilities. The group has developed a plan to create a 15-20 field complex in Kenilworth. The U.S. Soccer Foundation has worked with the Environmental Protection Agency to construct soccer fields and complexes on 50 Superfund sites across the country, and has particular expertise in building community fields in urban areas. To prepare the site for development, the District of Columbia is seeking \$500,000 for environmental remediation and facility engineering and design.
- **Anacostia River - Environmental Active Cap Project** - The Anacostia River is one of the most highly degraded bodies of water in the mid-Atlantic region and perhaps in the nation. Listed as one of American Rivers' "Most Endangered Rivers", the Anacostia contains coliform bacteria which is hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of times above EPA's allowable limits. The river also contains a number of known human carcinogenic pollutants. Furthermore, the presence of contaminated sediments in waterways has emerged over the past several years as the leading consumer of the nation's investment in environmental cleanup. The largest fraction of this cost is incurred in dredging and disposal of sediment. The Hazardous Substance Research Center South/Southwest at Louisiana State University has developed a technology for immobilizing sediment contaminants and treating them in place. Known as "Active Cap" technology, its demonstration on the Anacostia River will advance the ongoing Federal restoration of the

river and enhance regulatory acceptance of the technology. The technology involves placing a layer of clean material on contaminated sediment. The clean material is laced with chemically active agents which immobilize and degrade contaminants. When the cap is removed through natural processes the sediment is no longer toxic. Once demonstrated, Active Cap technology will dramatically slash the cost and duration of cleanups across the country. To implement this demonstration project, LSU is seeking \$5 million for Brownfield Remediation.

- **Child and Family Services and D.C. Courts Family Division Reform** - Reforming Child and Family Services and the Court's Family Division is a high priority for this Subcommittee, and we hope to work with you to affect reform that is best for the city's residents and meets some of the immediate needs of the Court. As we move ahead, we should keep in mind that any eventual reform may have necessary expenses. For example, among other possible expenses, the D.C. Superior Court's proposal to reform the Family Division requested an immediate need to renovate the courthouse to create a family waiting room and centralize the courtrooms where family cases are heard.
- **The George Washington University Center for Excellence in Municipal Management** - The Center for Excellence in Municipal Management was created in 1997 as a partnership between the GWU School of Business and Public Management, the District of Columbia, and the Fannie Mae Foundation. The Center aims to enhance leadership and management abilities in the D.C. government and schools through two programs: the Programs for Excellence in Municipal Management (PEMM) and the Principals' Leadership Academy. The Center provides executive education in leadership and management development and expert management advice and research. About 200 D.C. managers have completed the program since 1997. Approximately \$1.8 million are expended annually on the program of which more than half of this total is derived from grants and other contributions obtained by GWU. Additionally, GWU contributes more than a \$1 million of in-kind support to the program. GWU is requesting \$500,000 to increase the capacity of the program so that more D.C. managers may enroll.
- **Voyager Universal Literacy System Pilot Project** - The Universal Literacy System is a reading program developed by Voyager Expanded Learning to ensure that children can read when they enter third grade. The program includes eight components: professional development, student evaluation system, in-school reading program, after-school,

summer school, home study, an electronic data management system, and a district-level implementation team. Students in the system are evaluated every nine weeks, and teachers are provided specific plans to help them. To implement the Universal Literacy System into all kindergarten and first grade classrooms in the District of Columbia's public schools, Voyager Expanded Learning is seeking \$3.5 million. The District of Columbia Public Schools Superintendent, Paul L. Vance, supports this system and asks for an additional appropriation beyond the requested DC budget to implement it.

- **Project to Connect Local and Federal Police via Mobile Computers** - This inter-operability proposal involves the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police (MPDC) as well as the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Park Police, and U.S. Capitol Police which also patrol the community. The project would provide for the hardware, software, project management, and all related equipment and training for these police agencies to have mobile data computers in their vehicles and/or handheld devices for on-foot patrol. This equipment will allow them to communicate with each other and obtain data from shared public safety related databases. It will also create a platform foundation for future shared crime mapping capabilities. \$2 million is needed for this project of which \$400,000 is for MPDC to upgrade equipment and fund system administration for the first year and \$1.6 million is to equip approximately 133 units equally distributed between the Secret Service, U.S. Park Police, and U.S. Capitol Police.
- **One Economy Corporation's "Digital Communities" Project** - One Economy Corporation is a national non-profit organization, headquartered in the District of Columbia. Its goal is to use technology to fight poverty by bringing online information and resources directly to the homes of low-income families. One Economy Corporation has started with demonstration projects in Washington, D.C. and Portland, Oregon. Working with schools and private sector partners such as charitable foundations, banks, community development organizations, and health care providers, One Economy Corporation is building "digital communities" by providing low-income families in-home access to computers, training, and online information relating to financial services, home-ownership opportunities, health care, educational resources, jobs, and government services. One Economy Corporation is seeking \$1.5 million to advance and expand its outstanding programs and to more effectively leverage the support of its private sector partners.

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As we hear further from the Mayor and other city officials, we are hopeful that these initiatives can be considered during the Subcommittee's deliberation on the FY 2002 D.C. Appropriations Bill.

Sincerely,

JOHN BREAUX
United States Senator

MARY L. LANDRIEU
United States Senator